

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 EUR-12 IGA-01 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 INT-05 /096 W

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R 211418Z MAY 75 ZFF-6

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3395

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ABIDJAN 4241

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PART OF TEXT OMITTED IN PARA 6
IN ORIGINAL TRANSMISSION)

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (DAVIS, NATHANIEL), PFOR, XA, IV

SUBJ: ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIS'S VISIT TO IVORY COAST

1. SUMMARY: DAVIS'S MAY 12-13 VISIT IN ABIDJAN INCLUDED MEETINGS
WITH DIRECTOR PAUL KAYA OF ENTENTE FUND; VICE PRESIDENTS OF
AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK; AND IVORY COAST OFFICIALS, INCLUDING
PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS MELEDJE, MINISTER OF STATE DENISE, PLANNING MINISTER
DIAWARA, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT YACE, AGRICULTURE MINISTER
SAWADOGO, AND ECONOMY/FINANCE MINISTER BEDIE. DINNER WAS ALSO
HOSTED BY MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. AMBASSADOR GAVE RECEIPT-
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TION FOR U.S. MISSION PERSONNEL, BUSINESS, BANKING AND OTHER

IVORIAN OFFICIALS, AS WELL AS LUNCHEON FOR SEVERAL MINISTERS AND SENIOR OFFICIALS. END SUMMARY.

2. PAUL KAYA, DIRECTOR, ENTENTE FUND: KAYA THANKED U.S. FOR AID PROVIDED SINCE 1967 TO FIVE-COUNTRY REGIONAL ORGAIZATION (IVORY COAST, DAHOMEY, NIGER, UPPER VOLTA, TOGO), INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT LOANS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, KAYA INDICATED FUTURE AREAS OF FUND CONCENTRATION, INCLUDING STABILIZATION OF GRAIN PRODUCTION, AGRIUCLTURAL EXTENSION, INCREASE OF MEAT PRODUCTION IN COASTAL STATES, ROAD MAINTENANCE TRAINING CENTER, AND PROMOTION OF PRIVATE AFRICAN ENTERPRISE. IN RESPONSE TO DAVIS QUESTION, KAYA SAID DAHOMEY WAS PROVIDING SOOME PROBLEMS FOR THE FUND IN ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD FUND SUPPORT OF PRIVATE INVESTMENT. KAYA SAID FUND WOULD CONTINUE SEEK TO EXPAND THROUGH LOANS AND GRANTS FROM ALL POSSIBLE DONORS (MAJOR AMONG WHICH ARE FRANCE, CANADA, EEC, AND U.S.).

3. CLEMENT KAUL MELEDJE, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS: MELDJE EXPRESSED PLEASURE THAT IVORY COAST FORMED PART OF FIRST DAVIS TRIP TO AFRICA AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY. MELEDJE DISCUSSED IVORIAN EFFORTS ASSIST POORER NEIGHBORS THROUGH REGIONAL COOPERATION QUOTE WITHOUT TALKING OF NEW ECONOMIC ORDER UNQUOTE. HE DESCRIBED IVORY COAST ROLE IN DIALOGUE WITH SOUTH AFRICA AS DEVELOPING EVEN FURTHER AND DESCRIBED AS RPACTICAL AND NOT IDEOLOGICAL PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET'S APPROACH TO THIS PROBLEM AND OTHER FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES SUCH AS DEVELOPMENT AND GAP BETWEEN HAVE AND HAVE-NOT NATIONS. MELEDJE ASKED WHETHER U.S. WOULD "PULL BACK" FROM WORLD AS RESULT OF SEA DEBACLE. DAVIS ASSURED HIM USG HAS NO INTENTION OF TURNING TO ISOLATION OR WITHDRAWING FROM WORLD RESPONSIBILITIES. ANXIOUS TO MAKE AMERICA'S DETERMINATION UNDERSTOOD AND AVOID ANYBODY'S "MISCALATIONS".

4. MINISTER OF STATE AUGUSTE DENISE (ACTING FOR ABSENT MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS): PRESIDENT DENISE WELCOMED DAVIS, THANKING HIM FOR U.S. ROLE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF IVORY COAST. DENISE THEN CRITICIZED SEKOU THOURE, WHOM HE CALLED A QUOTE PETIT COMMUNISTE UNQUOTE, REQUESTING U.S. TO USE LEVERAGE OF AID TO GUINEA TO STEER IT AWAY FROM COMMUNIS. DAVIS OBSERVED THAT, ALTHOUGH GUINEA SEEMED ADVANCED IN TERMS OF IDEOLOGY IN PRACTICE IT WAS TAKING A PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO U.S. INVESTMENT. CONFIDENTIAL

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IN ADDITION, U.S. WAS LESS THAN OPTIMISTIC OF PROSPECTS OF USING MODEST U.S. AID TO GUINEA IN THIS FASHION, EVEN IF SUCH AS APPROACH WERE CONSISTENT WITH U.S. POLICY OF NONINTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF AFRICAN NATIONS.

5. MEETING WITH PRESIDNET HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY REPORTED SEPTEL.

6. MINISTER OF PLAN MOHAMED DIAWARA: AT DAVIS'S REQUEST,

DIAWARA DISCUSSED VARIOUS IVORIAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, PLANNED OR ALREADY UNDERWAY, IN WHICH U.S. INTERESTS WERE OR COULD BE INVOLVED. DIAWARA MENTIONED TAABO DAM, ENGINEERING STUDY OF WHICH DONE BY DAISER. HE THEN TURNED TO SUGAR PROJECTS, CITING GOIC'S UNFORTUNATE EXPERIENCE WITH LANG AFRIQUE. DIAWARA COMMENDED AMBASSADOR SMITH'S EFFORTS TO AVERT WHAT OTHERWISE WOULD BE QUOTE STATE OF WAR UNQUOTE BETWEEN GOIC AND LANG. DIAWARA'S GENERAL APPROACH IS THAT LANG AFFAIR WILL NOT POISON INVESTMENT CLIMATE FOR U.S. IN A SADDER BUT WISER IVORY COAST. DIAWARA ALSO MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF U.S. INVESTMENT IN PAPER PULP INDUSTRY, REPORT ON WHICH IS NEAR COMPLETION. DIAWARA ASKED U.S. TO CONSIDER QUOTE NEW FORM OF AID UNQUOTE, ROUGHLY A SOFT-LOAN WINDOW OF EXPORT-IMPORT BANK. (EMBASSY WILL REPORT FURTHER ON PROPOSAL.)

7. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT PHILIPPE YACE: YACE ANNOUNCED

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ABIDJAN 4241

HIS COMING TO NEW YORK FOR TWO WEEKS FOR MEDICAL CONSULTATION, DEPARTING LONDON MAY 24, BUT HE SOUGHT NO USG ASSISTANCE. YACE SPOKE OF HIS EARLIER TRIP TO U.S. TO SOLICIT SUPPORT FOR NOBEL PEACE PRIZE FOR HOUPHOUET AND PRAISED GOVERNOR HARRIMAN'S WARM SECONDING LETTER TO NOBEL COMMISSION. YACE ALSO JOYFULLY ANNOUNCED DECISION BY PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOINGY TO CHANGE CONSTITUTION TO REMOVE AMBIGUITY REGARDING SUCCESSION IN EVENT OF DEATH (REPORTED SEPT 1). YACE CLOSED BY STRESSING THAT HIS MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY WAS AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF PARTY (PDCI) REFERRING TO QUOTE INDEPENDENT CURRENTS UNQUOTE IN ORGANIZATION), PARTICULARLY IN ELECTION YEAR IN WHICH HOUPHOUET ALMOST CERTAIN TO RUN AGAIN. (YACE'S COMMENTS ON DIALOGUE WITH SOUTH AFRICA REPORTED SEPT 1).

8. MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE ABDOULAYE SAWADO: DAVIS STRESSED CONFIDENTIAL

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CONTINUED U.S. INTEREST IN AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT OF IVORY COAST. SAWADO EXPRESSED GRATITUDE, REFERRING TO PRIVATE ROLE PLAYED BY UNIVERSITIES OF ILLINOIS AND MISSISSIPPI AND GOIC DESIRE TO ESTABLISH GRADUATE SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE, PERHAPS THROUGH AGREEMENT WITH AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES. AMBASSADOR ADDED THAT U.S. AWAITING FORMAL REQUEST, PENDING FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS WITH UNIVERSITIES, WITH POSSIBLE U.S. ASSISTANCE THROUGH ENTENTE FUND. SAWADO SAID FORD AND ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATIONS HAD BEEN HELPFUL TO IVORY COAST. MINISTER CLOSED MEETING BY SAYING PRIMARY GOIC CONCERN WITH U.S. IN FIELD OF AGRICULTURE REMAINED QUESTION OF COMMODITY PRICES.

9. AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK/FUND: MEETING WITH ARRAY OF VICE PRESIDENTS AND OTHER OFFICIALS OF ADB, DAVIS DISCUSSED LEGISLATION CURRENTLY PENDING IN CONGRESS TO PERMIT U.S. DOLLARS 15 MILLION CONTRIBUTION TO AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND, PLEDGING ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT FOR MEASURE. NIGERIAN VICE PRESIDENT REPLIED, EXPRESSING GRATITUDE FOR U.S. CONTRIBUTION OF DOLLARS 2 MILLION FOR SAHEL STUDY AND STRESSING IMPORTANCE TO FUND OF U.S. MEMBERSHIP.

10. MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE HENRI KONAN BEDIE. MINISTER BEDIE RECEIVED DAVIS AT HIS RESIDENCE. HE DISCUSSED FAVORABLE (TO IVORY COAST) BALANCE-OF-TRADE WITH U.S. BASED PRIMARILY ON SALES OF COFFEE AND COCOA, STRESSING IMPORTANCE OF ARRIVING AT COMMODITY AGREEMENTS. AS CHAIRMAN OF IBRD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, BEDIE, ASKED U.S. POSITION ON CREATION OF QUOTE THIRD WINDOW UNQUOTE AT IBRD, WITH TERMS BETWEEN THOSE OF IBRD AND IDA, ESPECIALLY SUITED TO COUNTRIES LIKE IVORY COAST. DAVIS PROMISED TO LOOK INTO QUESTION AND INFORM BEDIE THROUGH EMBASSY, HOPEFULLY PRIOR TO NEXT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING IN JUNE (IN PARIS). BEDIE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT GENERAL

STATE OF IVORIAN FINANCES, THERE REMAINING ONLY PROBLEM OF PETROLEUM. (OFFSHORE EXPLORATION CONTINUES WITH SOME HOPEFUL SIGNS.) BEDIE SAID ABSTEMIOUS PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY HAD SAID HE WOULD TAKE HIS FIRST GLASS OF CHAMPAGNE THE DAY OIL WAS FOUND IN EXPLOITABLE QUANTITIES.

1. VISIT CLOSED WITH DINNER FOR DAVIS HOSTED BY MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AT HOTEL IVOIRE.

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12. AMBASSADOR AND MRS. SMITH HOSTED RECEPTION AND LUNCHEON FOR DAVIS. FORMER ATTENDED BY SENIOR COUNTRY TEAM MEMBERS, AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN, IVORIAN BANKERS, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY VICE-PRESIDENTS, AND OTHER OFFICIALS. LUNCHEON INCLUDED: MELEDJE, DIAWARA, BEDIE, SECSTATE FOR BUDGET KONE. MINISTER OF INFORMATION DONA FOLOGO, REPRESENTATIVE OF MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, AND SENIOR OFFICIALS OF PRESIDENCY.

13. PRESS, RADIO AND TV COVERAGE OF VISIT WAS EXCELLENT, INCLUDING ARTICLES WITH PHOTOS IN FRATERNITE MATIN FOR FOUR DAYS. ALL REPORTING WAS HIGHLY COMPLIMENTARY.

14. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES VISIT FULLY ACCOMPLISHED PURPOSES OF MAKING NEW ASSISTANT SECRETARY KNOWN TO IVORIAN LEADERS (ON WHOM HE UNIFORMLY EXCELLENT IMPRESSION) AND GIVING HIM OPPORTUNITY TO SEE AND HEAR ABOUT THIS COUNTRY'S PROGRESS AND ITS PREOCCUPATIONS, THE FOREMOST OF WHICH ARE SEVERE ANXIETY OVER FUTURE OF COMMODITY PRICES AND PEACEFUL CHANGE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.
SMITH

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